



## VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Pharmacy Program

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Pharmacy VALOR Program was initiated in the spring of 2007; this honors program provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. Opportunities for learning include didactic or classroom experiences, competency-based clinical practice with a qualified pharmacist preceptor, and participation in pharmacy practice conferences. Students recruited for the program must have completed the second professional year (or 4 completed semesters hours equivalent in a year round program) of education at an Accreditation Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School or College of Pharmacy.

Students may be appointed on a full or part-time basis during the summer months and may continue during their final academic year on a part-time basis. The aggregate hours that a student may be funded by Health Care Retention and Recruitment Office (HRRO) in the program are 400 hours per year for a total of 800 hours.

**THE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:** The Pharmacy VALOR program at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System is designed to give residents hands-on experience in a variety of the pharmacy services provided, as well as a guided introduction to many of the people that provide our innovative services.

Didactic educational plan will include:

- Orientation (32 hours): Includes a 2-day Medical Center orientation and a 2-day Pharmacy Service orientation.
- Educational Modules and Competency assessment (4 hours): The student will participate in a variety of Educational Modules and then meet with the program administrator to review them.
- Weekly, introductory interviews and presentation (40 hours): In order to expose the student to the wide variety of pharmacists involved in the service, the student will be asked to conduct ten interviews of various personnel within the Pharmacy Service. The student will be able to select from a list of staff, clinical and administrative personnel for their interviews. The student will then research the position they are to interview, arrange a convenient time to interview the employee, and conduct the interview. The student will then present their findings to the program administrator and/or a group of pharmacy employees/trainees.

The clinical educational plan will involve the student working with the pharmacists in the areas below to learn the medication management process within each section.

#### Inpatient Pharmacy Section (108 hours)

- Fill medication orders and delivery of the medications
- Fill wardstock medications and delivery of wardstock medications
- Package medications
- Work with automation (e.g., PacMed, Bulk Packagers, Robot, MedCarousel, Omnicell, Acudose)
- Put away daily orders
- Respond to phone calls

#### Intravenous Admixture (72 hours)

- Prepare IV admixtures (piggybacks, large volume parenterals, total/peripheral nutrition and chemotherapy) utilizing aseptic technique in a timely manner for final check by a pharmacist
- Assist in the maintenance of the clean room environment
- Deliver IV admixtures as scheduled.

#### Outpatient Pharmacy (108 hours)

- Preparation of prescriptions for final check by a pharmacist;
- Reviewing prescriptions prior to dispensing to assure that dosage forms and doses prescribed are correct;
- Observing regulations governing prescribing, labeling, dispensing, and security procedures for medications, supplies, narcotics and other controlled substances;
- Conducting discharge counseling of patients, answering questions regarding their drug regimen, which includes advising patients of potential drug-related or health-related conditions which may develop from the use of the medication for which the patient should seek additional medical care.

#### Ambulatory Care (36 hours)

- Observe a new patient orientation in Anticoagulation Clinic
- Participate in management of clinic activities
- Answer drug information questions
- Counsel a patient on new drug therapy

#### **BENEFITS:**

Salary equal to 80 percent of the local VA facility's per annum general schedule salary rate for GS-9, Step 1 (approximately \$19.00/hr).

No service obligation.

Experience both distributive and clinical VA Pharmacy Services.

Gain insight to the nation's premier healthcare delivery service.

Former VALOR students, who receive their Pharm.D. Degree may be hired at a salary rate above the minimum, based on superior qualifications such as documented outstanding performance in the VALOR program and/or number of hours completed as a VALOR participant (e.g., unlicensed Baccalaureate or Pharm.D. graduates at the GS-9 Grade, licensed Baccalaureate or Pharm.D. graduates at the GS-11 Grade).

#### **APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;  
*Note: The GPA must be computed on their professional training in the School or College of Pharmacy, or for work accepted for credit towards the pharmacy degree. While a student may have a grade below "B" in a pharmacy course, the cumulative GPA for the core pharmacy courses may not be less than a 3.0. Only data on official transcripts will be used to determine grade qualifications. To substantiate selection for the VALOR program, students enrolled in a School or College of Pharmacy using a pass/fail grading system, must have a recommendation from the Dean or Director of the academic program regarding the student's academic achievement.*
2. Be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours as a Pharmacy VALOR student in a VA facility; and
3. Be a United States citizen and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR program.
4. Not have a service obligation to any Federal, State, or private institution; or be a recipient of any Federal scholarships that incurs a service obligation.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Your application packet should include:

1. Complete VA Forms (available at <http://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>):
  - a. 10-2850D “Application for Health Professions Trainees” AND
  - b. US Government form OF-306 “Declaration for Federal Employment”.
2. Official School/College of Pharmacy transcript.
3. Submit letter from Dean to the Chief of Pharmacy, letter should include the following:
  - a. A nomination of the student to the program;
  - b. Verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school);
  - c. Successful completion of the second year of pharmacy education by the time the student enters into the program;
  - d. Anticipated graduation within two years after entry into the Pharmacy VALOR Program
4. Statement of career goals (maximum 1 page).

Application Deadline: All application materials must be postmarked on or before **3/6/2015**. Interviews will be arranged in late March/early April.

Send all materials to:

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